IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Chiu Ping Wong, Thomas P. Hanschen,
Anthony B. Ferguson, William W. Merrill,
Fred J. Roska, and Jeffery N. Jackson

Group Art Unit:

Serial No.:

Filed: Examiner:

For: Methods of Stretching Films and Such Films

Certificate of Express Mailing	
Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.10 I certify that this application is being deposited on the date indicated below with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.	
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EL597089673US	_Theresa C. Jo_
Date of Deposit	**Printed Name of Person Mailing Application**
17 January 2002	Theresa C. To

Preliminary Amendment

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Kindly amend the above-captioned application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-16, 19, and 43-46.

Please amend claim 17 as follows:

17.   A film obtained by the method of biaxially stretching a polymeric film according to an overbias or overstretch stretch profile to a final first direction stretch parameter and a final second direction stretch parameter, the method comprising the steps of:

a) imparting a sufficiently high temperature to the film to allow biaxial stretch;

b) biaxial tenter stretching the film to a peak first direction stretch parameter which is greater than the final first direction stretch parameter, wherein the final first direction stretch parameter is less than the uniaxial natural stretch parameter, wherein at least 75% of the final first direction stretch parameter is attained before no more than 50% of the final second direction stretch parameter is attained, and wherein the final first direction stretch parameter is no greater than the final second direction stretch parameter; and

c) subsequent to step b), retracting the film in the first direction from the peak first direction stretch parameter to the final first direction stretch parameter; wherein uniformity of properties is attained in the film in the first direction by steps a) through c) despite the final first direction stretch parameter being less than the uniaxial natural stretch parameter.

Remarks

Claims 17-18 and 20-42 remain in this application. Claim 17 has been amended. No new matter has been added. A replacement page reflecting the changes to the claims is attached in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121.

Please charge any fees that may be associated with this paper to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: _17 January 2002_   By: _Carolyn V. Peters_

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17. (once amended) A film obtained by the method of [claim 1] biaxially stretching a polymeric film according to an overbias or overstretch stretch profile to a final first direction stretch parameter and a final second direction stretch parameter, the method comprising the steps of:

    a) imparting a sufficiently high temperature to the film to allow biaxial stretch;

    b) biaxial tenter stretching the film to a peak first direction stretch parameter which is greater than the final first direction stretch parameter, wherein the final first direction stretch parameter is less than the uniaxial natural stretch parameter, wherein at least 75% of the final first direction stretch parameter is attained before no more than 50% of the final second direction stretch parameter is attained, and wherein the final first direction stretch parameter is no greater than the final second direction stretch parameter; and

    c) subsequent to step b), retracting the film in the first direction from the peak first direction stretch parameter to the final first direction stretch parameter; wherein uniformity of properties is attained in the film in the first direction by steps a) through c) despite the final first direction stretch parameter being less than the uniaxial natural stretch parameter.